

## STARK ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL HUD FUNDING FOR CITY OF ALAMEDA'S SECTION 8 HOUSING

Sunday, 18 July 2004

Calls for passage of legislation to change federal housing policy, characterizing it as "a recipe for disaster"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 19, 2004

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WASHINGTON,

DC — Following a meeting last week between Alameda Housing Authority Director Mike Pucci, staff from the Office of Congressman Pete Stark and officials at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Congressman Pete Stark (D-Fremont) formally announced today HUD's decision to award the City of Alameda \$636,161 to address its Section 8 housing shortfall.

"I'm pleased to announce the release of these funds for Alameda," Rep. Stark said. "Although these funds won't correct the long-term policy problem at issue here, they will provide some immediate relief. This is progress that has been made through a whole lot of cooperative effort. But we're not done bending HUD's ear to make sure families in Alameda aren't left out in the cold. Our work has only just begun."

Congressman

Stark has written HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson three times since March seeking more funding for Alameda's Section 8 Housing voucher program, which faces a \$3 million shortfall due to recent changes in HUD's reimbursement formula.

Last Tuesday, Stark introduced Alameda Housing Authority Director Mike Pucci before a Congressional hearing held by the House Financial Services Committee. A key Stark aide then accompanied Pucci to a meeting at HUD's Washington headquarters. In that meeting, HUD officials agreed to provide additional funding for Alameda and that agreement was made official today.

“We’ve made HUD aware that we have a serious problem on our hands,” said Stark. “Whether they find ways to move a little money here and there to help Alameda is important and we have to continue to press for that. But the real heavy lifting will be to convince the Bush Administration to abandon the formula that has put Alameda in this predicament in the first place.”

Stark is a cosponsor of legislation, HR 4263, that would require HUD to base its funding for housing vouchers on an “actual cost” formula rather than one relying on inflation-based estimates. The bill has 123 House cosponsors, including House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and East Bay Reps. George Miller (D-Martinez), Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), Ellen Tauscher (D-Alamo) and Mike Honda (D-San Jose). Companion legislation, S. 2467, cosponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer, has been introduced in the Senate. Both bills have yet to be taken up by the respective committees to which they’ve been referred.

“This problem ultimately requires a legislative solution,” Stark remarked. “Until Congress acts to override the President’s short-sighted policy on Section 8 housing, HUD has no basis to change course. Without action, Alameda will feel the brunt of funding shortfalls for years.”

“The Administration’s cleverly designed formula is meant to move the cost of public housing off the plate of the federal government and into the laps of local communities,” Stark continued. “This Bush plan is a recipe for disaster. The federal government has a responsibility to help low income families keep their housing. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in overturning this ridiculous policy.”